

U1L1 The Spiritual Life Leads to a Moral Life: Spirituality and the World Religions

General Outcome 1- The students will examine spirituality in various world religions.

A1. What does it mean to be spiritual?

S.O. 1.1 -- To explore the concept of the spiritual in the context of world religions.

a. The nature of religious tradition.

b. World religions: (South Asia and ancient West) • Buddhism • Hinduism • Judaism • Islam

Today you will begin a short section on the world religion section of our RS 35 course. We are going to look at how in order to live a fulfilled spiritual life we must also live a moral life. We will do this by studying the teachings of a number of the world religions on a variety of moral issues.

Also, there are often those who suggest that Catholics shouldn't "push" their moral teachings on others as it might be offensive to those of other religions. What I think that you will likely find is that on most moral issues the world religions are pretty much in agreement with one another. The only religion that might have conflict with these moral teachings is atheism.

"To be free, and to live freely, is to live spiritually, because only spirit is free—matter is not. To live spiritually is to live morally. The two essential properties of spirit that distinguish it from matter are intellect and will—the capacity for knowledge and moral choice. The ideals of truth and goodness. The most radical threat to living morally today is the loss of moral principles." Peter Kreeft

Assignment: Research a variety of moral teachings from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Catholicism.

We will have 2 classes to work on the assignment and 1 class to discuss your research. Your assignment will be due to be handed in fully on the next class day.

Resources:

You are welcome to search the internet for your sources of information.

Please remember to site all of your sources.

This will be .5% of your mark per square that you fill in.

If you are uncertain about a certain resource please feel free to ask me about it.

Here are some resources that you might find helpful:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>

http://www.ppu.org.uk/learn/infodocs/st_religions.html

<http://atheism.about.com/od/abortioncontraception/p/ReligionBirth.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_views_on_same-sex_marriage

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_punishment#Religious_views

<http://godlas.myweb.uga.edu/sexuality.html>

Morality and World Religions

Part ONE:

CHART: Will be completed in class September 9/10 and 11/12. **Due for class discussion on September 15/16.**

You are welcome to work on the chart portion of the assignment by yourself or with a partner. Please make sure that your names are on the assignment when handed in.

- a) Identify if the Religion is FOR or AGAINST the issue
- b) Summarize in 1 or 2 sentences describing what the religion teaches on each specific issue.
- c) *Please include the link to the website where you found the information*

Part TWO:

WRITTEN: Will be completed in class or for homework depending on discussion time. **Due: September 17/18**

This portion of the assignment will be completed individually. Please answer the following questions in 1-2 page length.

- 1.** Of the **moral issues** that you researched, **explain in detail** which issue you found the least consistency among the world religions. What explanations were given to justify each of the religions stances on this issue? (2-3 paragraphs) **(10 Marks)**
- 2.** Which **issue** was there the most consistency amongst the religions? Explain in detail how each religion justified their stance on this issue. (2-3 paragraphs) **(10 Marks)**
- 3.** Choose one of the moral issues and explain how learning about all these religious viewpoints may have changed or strengthened your position on the issue. (1 paragraph) **(5 Marks)**
- 4.** Discuss how the moral viewpoint of the world is different than the moral viewpoint of these religions. What is driving our society to make the moral choices that are being made?(1 paragraph) **(5 Marks)**

RUBRIC

To earn full marks on each requirement, you must:

Depth of reflection	Demonstrate a conscious & thorough understanding of the subject matter. This reflection can be used as an example for other students.
Context	Use specific and convincing examples from the texts studied to support claims in your own writing, making insightful & applicable connections between texts.
Language use	Use stylistically sophisticated language that is precise and engaging, with notable sense of voice, awareness of audience and purpose, and varied sentence structure.

Morality and World Religions

MORAL ISSUE	BUDDHISM	HINDUISM	ISLAM	JUDAISM	CATHOLICISM
Abortion					
Euthanasia					
Contraception					
Stem Cell Research					
Same-sex Marriage					
Pre-Marital Sex					